

# DNL Dockenfield newsletter

**News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield**  
**Issue 281** **Published 14 September 2020**

## What do you think of it so far?

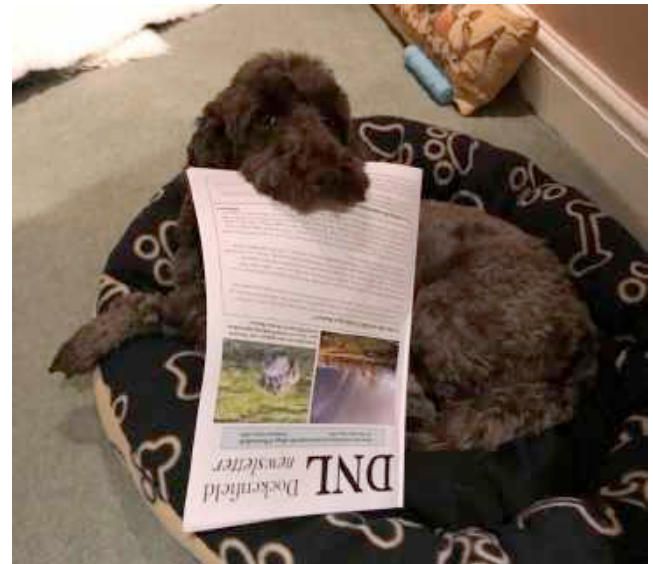
I'm guessing that 2020 isn't quite turning out to be what anyone had in mind at the turn of the year? Even at the start of lockdown in March, I don't suppose many really predicted that we would be where we are now.

The one thing of course we can all celebrate is that we live where we do. What a joy it is to be amongst such delightful open spaces and in the bosom of such a caring community. So much so that many people ask what more they can do to help, and in this edition there are a number of suggestions of ways in which you can.

There's the Poppy Appeal; a sponsored walk for much needed funds for the church; two residents testing themselves to the limits to raise funds for charity; donations to Farnham Foodbank are hugely appreciated; whilst other charities, including Helen Arkell and Phyllis Tuckwell need your support.

So my introduction this edition is to say simply this: please help if you can; it will really make a difference. Thank you.

**Michael**



## Getting your teeth into DNL

Your 40th anniversary DNL has been a real hit with the whole family. Rafferty has found it particularly riveting and won't put it down. He even growled at me when I tried to take it away. His feedback is that there is no doggy section and too much human stuff. Where are the best local dog walks, who gives the best dog treats and where should he go for his post lockdown groom?

**Christine Allingham**



**This beautiful sign welcomes you to the village.  
Created by Nicola Godden and photographed for  
DNL by Simon Claiden**

## Do join these fascinating walks

**Bat walk:** 25 September 6.30 pm

**Fungi walk:** 18 October 10 am

Meet at the new bench Bealeswood Common. Walks about an hour around the village lanes and woods. Please call 07530 044278/01252 792426 if you are interested so numbers can be controlled according to current guidelines.

**Steve Lockett**

## Please check before you plan

Today, Monday 14 September, in the continuing fight against coronavirus, the government has introduced new restrictions on the size and nature of certain gatherings. So please be sure to check what the rules are before attending any of the events announced in this edition of DNL.



## Dockenfield make it two wins in a row!

The annual cricket match between Dockenfield and Frensham took place at Hollowdene, on Bank Holiday Monday. Historically noted as a feisty occasion, the two teams of 12 entered into battle in a spirit of great fun and good gamesmanship. After a quick pint at the Bluebell (the team shirt sponsor along with DPC) skipper Alex Peers won the toss and decided to bat. 36 overs per side being agreed.

A diplomatic start to the innings was planned; who better than Guy Jackson supported by son Harry to get things going! The former had a short but entertaining innings but Harry kicked on ably supported by the top order including Alex and Ben Peers, Oscar Grenville and top scorer Oban Baird who at 16 years old treated the friendly Frensham bowling with particular disdain. Dockenfield finished on a solid total of 206-9 off their 36 overs. After a liquid/sandwich tea the Frensham openers offered some stability before the pace of Freddie Cousins and leg spin of Robin Catchpole slowed the run rate, the latter hugely unfortunate not to get several wickets as he turned the ball sideways. As wickets steadily fell courtesy of Oban Baird and Ben Peers' off spin, Matt Barnes rolled back the years with his sharp off cutters trapping Frensham's more able batsman leg before.

With the pressure building on the home team Alex Joyce joined the fray; he immediately found momentum and clean bowled two more batsmen much to the joy of the large Dockenfield support! Club stalwart Guy Jackson then bowled 2 overs of accurate left arm over and even had a catch cancelled out off a no-ball! His son Harry kept a keen eye behind the stumps throughout. With time running out and Frensham struggling to make further runs skipper Alex Peers was persuaded to bowl an over or two, and apt for the day given all his hard work in organising the game he trapped another Frensham batsmen LBW with the last ball of the game!

Frensham CC ended some 40 runs short of their target on 167 for 8. The result was a great fun day, a superb team performance and a resounding victory for the village. The team retired to the pavilion for well-earned refreshments.... the perfect end to a perfect late summer's day.

Well done to Alex Peers, ably supported by his clan, for organising another fun day. Thanks to all our fabulous supporters and huge thanks to Frensham CC for hosting, facilitating (Covid managed) and entering into the spirit of fun and community that characterises our villages. A mention should also go to the injured Alex Rutherford for donning the white coat and umpiring on behalf of the village - thanks Alex.

Do put the August Bank Holiday in your diaries for next year's match. With two wins under our belts there's little doubt Frensham will be looking for revenge in 2021.

**Charles Pamment**

## Surrey Artists Open Studios

In this strange year, we were not able to go ahead with this event in June, but we are happy to say it is happening in late September/October. In common with so many people this year, artists, makers and craftspeople have lost out with work events being cancelled. No galleries, exhibitions or fairs have been possible, so we are absolutely delighted that SAOS can take place now.

This year, we have an artists' trail for Dockenfield and Frensham, including several designers and makers at Pierrepoint Farm. Dockenfield has three studios opening:

- **Jean Heathcote** showing her paintings of landscapes, flowers and seascapes at Studio 80, Hursley Cottage, Lake Lane.
- **Lynne Thomas**, wildlife artist passionate about nature, showing both animal and landscape original paintings, prints, cushions, coasters and cards in Studio 81, The Oaks, in The Street. Lynne's work will be in her outside studio and gazebo.
- **Alison Ellen** at Studio 82, Jefferys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane. Alison has decided to show on her own this year without fellow artists, and rather than inviting people throughout the house, will be in a covered area in the front garden, exhibiting her knitwear and demonstrating processes including dyeing wool.

Thinking of those who have been home-schooling this year, this is a great opportunity for children as well as adults to meet artists and makers and see the work behind the finished pieces, and the 'trail' makes a good walk or bike ride, ticking all boxes!

All artists will have required safety measures in place, and we look forward to seeing you!

Frensham and Dockenfield Trail dates are **September 19, 20, 25, 26, 27** and **October 2, 3, 4** from 11am-5pm each day. For more details about the artists, covering the whole of Surrey, <https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk>  
**Alison Ellen**

## **Raise a glass to the return of our pubs!**

*Gosh, what can I tell you? Village life is just so enhanced with a good local pub, and boy did we miss them whilst the pesky virus kept them closed. But they are back open again, in a properly socially distanced way, and how lovely that is. Welcome back to you all, we have missed you!*

### **Hello from the Bluebell.....**

The last 8 weeks have been pretty crazy for all of us here, but we have got in to our stride and a new way of doing things and it seems to be working very well and very safely. Thank you to all of you who have supported us, whether you have had food and drinks here, or takeaways!

We will be continuing with the takeaways for the foreseeable future (during food service hours) and our website will be updated with our current menu. Ordering can be done through our website, over the phone, or by email. Our opening hours are currently:

**Monday:** Closed. **Tuesday- Friday:** 12-3pm, 5.30-10pm (food 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm). **Saturday:** 12-10pm (food 12-9pm). **Sunday:** 12-8pm (food 12-4pm)

We are in the process of planning what the next few months will look like here as the weather changes and will keep you all updated.

**Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell Team xx**

**The Bluebell, Dockenfield: (Tel: 792801; [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com))**

### **..... The Holly Bush**

So great to see all our customers back at The Holly Bush, a huge thank you for all the support and kind words we have received. The team here worked hard to make the Covid operational changes as un-intrusive as possible and that has been well received.

A huge thank you to Team Holly Bush for working so hard and adapting to the changes and challenges so quickly.

**David and Sally xx**

**The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060 [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk))**

### **..... and from Frensham Brewery**

Please take a look at our website for food events, Curry & A Pint nights, mobile Pizza horse box ...

Terrace regular opening hours: **Friday and Saturday** 12 - 8 pm, **Sunday** 12 - 6 pm plus special events. Social distancing rules apply.

Our own brewed beers are available to takeaway or to drink on the Terrace. (Other drinks are available too, wine/prosecco/cider/spirits/soft drinks.)

**Joe Wood**

**Craft Brews Brewery & Taproom (Tel:07774982174 [www.craftbrews.uk](http://www.craftbrews.uk) @CraftBrewsUK)**

### **..... and not forgetting the British Legion and the Frensham Pond Hotel**

We haven't had a message from the Legion or Frensham Pond, but rest assured they are open and would be delighted to see you. Get in touch via their contact details.

**Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch (Tel: 793014, [www.frenshamrbl.org.uk](http://www.frenshamrbl.org.uk))**

**The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa (Tel: 795161, [www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk](http://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk))**

## **Sponsored Walk – Beating the Bounds**

**Saturday 10 October – 9.30am**

We are organising a sponsored walk to raise money for the general funds of the church. The route will be approximately 14 miles tracing the 'bounds' of the ecclesiastical Parish of Frensham. The hope is to raise some much-needed funds whilst fundraising in a safe socially distanced but enjoyable way. We will also have interesting snippets of local information to share with all along the way as we appreciate the glorious countryside of Frensham and Dockenfield.

Those who come will need to bring their own refreshments and food, and be prepared for inclement weather, just in case! If you are interested in taking part, please email Eunice King and you will be sent all information required together with a sponsorship form which can be printed off as many times as needed. On this it will inform people how they can pay by cheque or on line.

This is probably the only fundraiser we will be able to do this year and will hopefully help reduce our huge deficit caused by lack of service collections since March, so please come forward to do this special sponsored walk and encourage as many of your family, friends and neighbours to sponsor you! Thank you so much.

**Eunice King [eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk)**

## **Remembrance Sunday 8 November 20 and Poppy Appeal 2020**

The Covid-19 pandemic will have a dramatic impact on this year's Poppy Appeal. As we all know the Government rules and guidelines change to meet the changing circumstances and so I can only inform you of the latest from the Royal British Legion.

The Legion has advised me that we will not be allowed to carry out house-to-house collections this year but can collect outside and in shops and certain supermarkets, providing social distancing is maintained. Schools will also be allowed to take part in the Poppy Appeal.

The Reverend Jane and I have discussed Remembrance Sunday and if the Government guidelines allow for it we plan to have the following services on Sunday, 8 November 2020.

- 10.15am - Frensham Memorial Service – social distancing, face masks voluntary, then walk to St Mary's Church
- 10.50am - St Mary's Church, Frensham – social distancing, face masks compulsory in the church. We hope to be allowed to have Royal British Legion Gift Aid envelopes at this service for Poppy Appeal donations.
- 12.30 - Dockenfield Memorial Service – social distancing, face masks voluntary.
- 1pm - Royal British Legion Club Memorial Service – social distancing, face masks voluntary.

Obviously our plans may have to change even to the extent of cancellation or perhaps reduced numbers attending but we feel it is very important to honour those who sacrificed their lives for us, if we can possibly do so.

This will be a very different year but any support you are able to give will be much appreciated, and we hope that we will all be able to take part in Remembrance Sunday if at all possible, with the minimum of risk.

**Peter James, Local Poppy Appeal Organiser**

## **Mark Rosling running Virtual London Marathon on 4 October for Water Aid**

I turned 60 recently and decided that a good incentive to keep fit would be to run the London Marathon. Due to Covid-19 the event this year is a virtual one in that participants have been invited to run their own course on 4 October and record it on an app. I am raising money for Water Aid so I have planned a 26.2-mile route which is entirely beside water – from just north of Godalming, running on the towpath beside the Wey Navigation to Weybridge and then down the Thames to Hampton Court.

I have set myself an ambitious fund-raising target (£100 for each year of my life) so I would be delighted to receive sponsorships from the village. Water Aid is a respected UK based charity working in many poor countries around the world implementing projects for clean water and sanitation. Like all charities, they have suffered this year from Covid's impact on fundraising, with the cancellation of many events. More details are on my JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-rosling1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-rosling1). The training has been hard but I hope to be able to report back on how it all went in the next edition of DNL! Thank you,

**Mark Rosling**

## **Please support Seb in his ride for charity**

I somewhat rashly entered the ballot for the Prudential Ride100 at the start of the year. Having done the training for it, even though the official event was cancelled, I decided to ride the full 100 miles anyway including Box and Leith Hills (which form part of the official ride) in support of Young Minds, a fantastic charity which helps young adults with mental health issues. As readers of DNL may know, this is a subject very close to my heart.

I completed the 100 miles on 15 August in a little under 7 hours, riding most of it on my own (for any cyclists reading this, you'll know the benefit of riding in a pack!) If you feel you can help Young Minds to continue the important work they are doing through sponsoring my ride, any donation would be greatly appreciated. This can be done through the funding page I have set up; the link is <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SebastianFox34>

Thank you very much in advance.

**Sebastian Fox**

## **Macmillan Coffee morning 25 September 2020 - cancelled**

Owing to Covid 19 restrictions we have regrettably had to cancel the coffee morning held in the Frensham Cricket Pavilion. We would like to encourage everyone who supports this worthwhile cause to run their own individual coffee morning at home. We will be happy to co-ordinate with collection boxes and materials as required. Please call Sue Wicks on 01252 795114 if you would like to run your own event at home with family and friends. Thanking everyone for all their kind support in the past.

**Sue Wicks**



## Parish Council News

All Parish Council meetings are being held via video conference meetings (Zoom) at present due to Covid-19 restrictions. This will continue until safe to resume meetings in a public place.

If any residents wish to speak at a meeting there is a slot in the agenda. The agenda can be found on the Parish Council website a week before the meeting [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk) Alternatively any questions you would like to be discussed or to attend the zoom meeting, please contact the clerk at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk).

## Meeting Dates

Tuesdays 15 September, 20 October, 24 November and 19 January 2021. All start 8pm via Zoom

## Parish Council contacts

**Clerk** (Jessica Hobday): [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk); **Chairman** (Paul Wood): [dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.co.uk). **Councillors** Jill Trout: [troutdpc@gmail.com](mailto:troutdpc@gmail.com); Ian McLean: [mcleandpc@gmail.com](mailto:mcleandpc@gmail.com); Chris Sutton: [suttondpc@gmail.com](mailto:suttondpc@gmail.com); Richard Blackburn: [blackburndpc@gmail.com](mailto:blackburndpc@gmail.com)

## Bonfires

Bonfires are part of normal garden waste management but please be considerate of your neighbors to avoid nuisance from smoke and smell. It may seem obvious to say this but some things to consider before lighting a bonfire: -

- Compost as much garden waste as possible
- Garden waste not suitable for composting should be as dry as possible before burning – a quick, hot fire will produce the minimum amount of smoke
- Try to avoid weekends and other times when people are likely to be sitting outside
- Check which way the wind is blowing
- Check there is no washing out drying in the vicinity
- Have a word with your neighbours about your intentions so that they can close windows before getting a house full of smoke
- Do not leave the bonfire unattended and do not leave to smolder, douse with water if required
- Do not burn household (or commercial) waste – this is illegal under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Take household waste to a Community Recycling Centre

Above all “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. Thank you.

## Planning for the Future Consultation

On 6 August the Government launched a consultation on “Planning For The Future”, which, according to the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick, is “An overhaul of the country’s out-dated planning system that will deliver the high-quality, sustainable homes communities need will be at the heart of the most significant reforms to housing policy in decades”. At the core of the proposals land will be designated in one of 3 categories: growth, renewal and protect. Land designated as growth will be approved for development at the same time that plans are prepared meaning that new homes, schools, shops, business space can be built quickly and efficiently, as long as local design standards are met. Renewal areas will enable much quicker development where it is well designed in a way which reflects community preferences. Development on protected land (e.g. Green Belt, National Parks, AONB) will continue to be restricted as today. There is a lot to the Planning Reforms, the consultation document can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>. Deadline for consultation comments is 29 October.

The Parish Council is working through the proposals, what it means for Dockenfield, and will respond to the consultation. We have secured a meeting with Jeremy Hunt, MP in September. We will report back on our Planning Consultation findings in a subsequent edition.

## ‘Dockenfield Nextdoor’

Many Dockenfield residents have received a letter inviting them to join the Nextdoor app. The letter claims that it is a neighbourhood hub for useful information and a great way to connect neighbours in need - which it can be. It also claims that it’s “100% free and private – just for our neighbours” which is a claim more open to interpretation given Nextdoor’s business model which is to sell data to advertisers. **Cont/**

## **Cont/**

Nextdoor is a US technology company owned by a consortium of Private Equity companies, it has been around for about 10 years. In 2017, Nextdoor acquired the UK social networking service Streetlife and Nextdoor is now expanding internationally. The Nextdoor business model is to sell data to advertisers which, given the real names and addresses, enables companies to run highly targeted local advertising campaigns.

It would have been better if the invitation letter had explained this to enable residents to take a more informed decision on whether they wish to join.

**Paul Wood and Jessica Hobday**

## **Geese**

*You will surely have noticed (or if not noticed, then heard) Canada Geese flying in formation over the village these last few months. They have a kind of 'Concord' effect, in that it is impossible to resist looking up at them as they fly overhead. Val Lewis has kindly offered to give us an insight into these wonderfully graceful birds.*

Canada geese are most common throughout the UK, and we often see flocks of them by water in our local villages. Unfortunately, they have become so numerous and messy that they can become pests and may be culled by licensed farmers, landowners, and owners of fishing lakes. They graze on grass and arable crops, and their droppings foul not only riverbanks and lakesides, but also the water beside which they like to live and breed.

Canada geese originated, unsurprisingly, in Canada and North America. They were first imported here by Charles II, who added them to his wildfowl collection in St James's Park. Inevitably some escaped and bred, and they rapidly became widespread. A Canada goose is a large, handsome bird, with a grey-brown back and lighter underparts, a black head and neck and a white 'chin-strap.' We often see them by the river near the Mill, and by lakes and rivers throughout the locality.

Greylag geese were the original native British geese, and the first species to be domesticated. They were the traditional farmyard geese, often reared for their plumage as well as their meat. Their feathers were considered the best for arrows, and also for quill pens, because they were strong and flexible. The Greylag is the one with the brown-grey plumage and pink legs and feet. It also has a large orange bill, to which birders refer as the carrot in its face. If you should see a white farmyard goose it is probably a descendant of a Greylag which has interbred with a goose of a different species. Greylags are less common in southern England now, although they are still sometimes seen locally. They are more numerous in East Anglia, the Lake District and south-west Scotland.

The smallest geese seen in the UK are Brent geese. They are unglamorously named Pale-bellied and Dark-bellied Brents. The Dark-bellied Brents are usually winter visitors to southern and eastern coastal areas in England, and migrate here from Russia. The Pale-bellied Brents migrate from Greenland to winter on the Irish coast. It is the Dark-bellied Brent we occasionally see hereabouts. It has a small dark head, a dark neck and breast, pale flanks, and a dark belly, with white underparts.

Perhaps the most exotic geese to be seen in the UK are Egyptian geese, and I often see a pair or more recently a singleton on Tilford's cricket green. The Egyptian goose has a whitish head and neck and spectacular dark eye markings. Its breast is orange-buff and its back is dark grey-brown. The wing feathers are chestnut, white and green. Its legs and feet are pink. Egyptian geese probably originated in Egypt and other areas of north Africa. They have been introduced into UK collections at various times since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Initially they were seen mainly in East Anglia, especially Norfolk, but have now spread country-wide. I once saw a pair of Egyptian geese on the banks of the Thames near Laleham, looking somewhat unlikely in a quintessentially English setting. When the female stood up fourteen fluffy goslings appeared, while the male looked on protectively.

However beautiful geese look on land, they are of course water birds. When they are not swimming, they look their best in flight. A skein of geese flying overhead, their wings beating powerfully and their voices sounding in unison, is a stand-still moment which lifts one's spirits.

**Val Lewis**

## **Ahead of the curve?**

Our friend, hearing about the new craze for Tik Tok thought 'Aha, for once I'm ahead of the curve and right up to date with fashion trends.' That is until she learned that Tik Tok is the new platform for mobile video clips and not the brand of Rooibos (redbush) 'tea' called Tick Tock that she has been drinking for some years!

## Letters to the Editor

### From DNL's very first Editor!

Just a quick email to say thanks so much for sending the DNL to me each edition. I really enjoy reading it from start to finish!

When I lived in Neasham Hill in the 70/80s my very good friends were Brenda Farrant, Jean Elkes and Teresa Aldred. I'm so happy to say I have stayed in touch with Brenda who after a short spell living in Crondall Village, is now happily back in Farnham near to me. It's lovely to be in closer touch and I am hoping to re-join the Millbridge WI once the lockdown restrictions are further eased.

The work you do as Editor of the DNL is so important - I was thrilled to get another mention in the current issue and to see the very first Newsletter in print once again.

With very best wishes

**Lyn Gill (formerly Doherty)**  
**Past Dockenfield resident and Editor of the very first edition of DNL**

### Thank you from the Foodbank

Thanks so much for your wonderful support of Foodbank. The Dockenfield donations are wonderfully generous thanks to your enthusiasm.  
Best Wishes.

**Fiona Everett (On behalf of Farnham Foodbank)**

*Donations in fact have been coming not only from Dockenfield but also from Frensham and elsewhere. So thank you one and all. Please keep them coming and see below for a Foodbank update*

### DNL's questions answered

*In the last edition of DNL there was a question about who wrote the poem 'Dockenfield re-visited' and whether anybody in the village remembers the Nicholas family who used to live in Weyside Cottages. Jack Bessant provides the answers, and more besides!*

The poem was written by Robert S. Wheeler; he was then living in Guildford. It was in the March 1982 issue 16 of DNL. He mentions nothing changed in 60 years, so perhaps he was living here in the 1920s. From my own records he was not on the Dockenfield's residents list for 1947-48 (this is the only list I have).

Anna, mum Alex, dad Mark and brother Luke Nicholas were our neighbours for lots of years, Anna and Luke were born here. They lived between us and Mary and Ron Bridgwood.

Also, we knew Stella Kirby very well and Marjorie served the family at the Dockenfield Stores.

Hope this is of help.

**Jack and Marjorie Bessant**

### Anyone want any logs?

In your next edition please can you include a note that we have had some oak trees cut down. If anyone wants any logs for free or would like to make a donation to St Mary's Frensham Trust please do get in touch at: [grahamallingham@sky.com](mailto:grahamallingham@sky.com). The logs will need splitting before use.

**Christine Allingham**

## Please continue to help Farnham Foodbank

DNL readers have been wonderfully generous in their support of Farnham Food Bank since we started as a collection point for the Parish, donating a terrific total of over 1,300 items since the beginning of May. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

Since lockdown began there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people coming to Farnham Foodbank for support, many of them for the first time. At the peak, the number of people they served was more than three times higher than usual, supporting about 70 families and 50 individuals. As we come to the end of the summer, the pandemic continues and the likelihood is that the demand for emergency food will significantly increase as government support measures are scaled back and countries try to prevent a second wave.

So, we would like to ask you all to continue to donate items as and when you are able so that we can keep these valuable supplies going. If you are able to help, please leave any contributions on the table in our (open) front porch at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield GU10 4HS. We will be sure to check the porch at least twice a day and take food in for safe storage until we deliver each Sunday afternoon. All contributions of non-perishable items are hugely welcome provided they are within code. At the moment though they are particularly looking for donations of raisins, vegetable oil, dried milk powder and tinned potatoes. Please check their website for the most up to date list which changes according to demand and what has already been donated <https://farnham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Thank you so much for you help.

## A Tale of Two Meadows

This year, No Mow May really caught on, and many gardeners took the step of not mowing all or part of their lawn. Some people may have enhanced the wildflower show by sowing seeds, either by raking into patches of bare ground or (more expensively) inserting plug plants. The seed company Rootgrow are reported to have sold 127,000 packets of their Empathy range of wildflower seed in the last two years. The benefits to insect life are almost immediate, and the subsequent flowering can be spectacular, or it can be disappointing. We have very good examples of both of these outcomes in the village this year; the grassed area in front of the Church of Good Shepherd, and Fritz's Field.

Both of these areas were not cut this year, but for different reasons. The churchyard which has been regularly cut as a lawn for maybe about a hundred years (let me know if anyone has knowledge on this please) but the decision this year was to have what we have called mini-meadows separated by paths to enable the grasses and wildflowers that are in the turf to grow, flower and go to seed. Note; no flower seeds or plugs were introduced, the flowers were already in the sward. After an initial cut in March to delineate the paths, the rectangular areas have been left untouched but will soon be cut back as most of the flowers have set seed. Fritz's Field (once a hop field) has been cut historically once a year for hay but for the last 30 years has had an autumn cut which favours wildlife communities, as has been well demonstrated on Bealeswood Common. However, last autumn and winter it was not cut because of lack of availability of equipment and the ensuing wet winter so it has had its second spring and summer of unrestricted growth.

For those who walk through the village and peer over hedges the contrast between the two sites could not be greater, despite the fact that they both have the same north-facing aspect and are poorly drained on our heavy Gault Clay. Counts (in brackets) of the number plants in flower from these two meadows are:

- **Churchyard:** April (13), May (23), June (29), July (26), August (11).
- **Fritz's Field:** May (10), August (8). (Can anyone please help with a monthly flower count here!). This year the Ox-eye Daisies were particularly good and we have noted orchids, scabious as well as other commoner flowers.

The diversity in the churchyard has surprised us all and even had some delightful orchids in June and July. The total number of different wildflower species in the churchyard this year was 58, and this compares with those in a 100 g packet of seeds for £18 (or £115 from Sarah Raven!) which may contain 20-30 different species. It was known just from casual observation of the sward in the churchyard that there were many different plants there but the show of flowers in June and July was, by any counts, spectacular.

By contrast, Fritz's Field has much lower diversity and I have no explanation as to why this should be the case. Presumably the churchyard was also a field, or possibly an orchard, before the church was built? The nearby, new, village field has even fewer wildflowers than Fritz's. Any suggestions/thoughts please let me know. Fritz's is also being overgrown by a gardener's nightmare, the Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) as well as by bracken. Both appear to have spread from the roadside verge and hedge and are now the dominant plants in some parts of the field. The expansion of this horsetail is being considered by the Parish Council in its newly formed Open Spaces Group but the remedies being discussed are not straightforward. They include practices that are contrary to wildlife conservation practices (non-organic herbicides that will kill all plants), ineffective (many do not work), or, are unsightly (weed suppressing membranes for 2 years). Another alternative is to leave a native wild plant alone. Fossil representatives of this plant (*Equisetites*) have been around the southeast of England for the last 130 million years and can be seen preserved in the sandstone in the cliffs around Hastings so it's not going anywhere soon. If anyone has any suggestions on this please let me know.

Although there are some problems we should, particularly this year when we've had more time to appreciate our locality, be grateful for the great range of wildflowers that we have in the village. During lockdown many more people were out and about enjoying our open spaces both from within the village and as visitors.

**Dan Bosence**

*For those who are not familiar with the locations, Fritz's Field is the meadow that rises up from the road on the left as you approach the T Junction (known as 'Three Ways') to the west of the village. It was donated to the village by Pauline Baynes, and named after her late husband Fritz. There are seats at the top of the field from which you can enjoy a delightful view (see also page 11)*

## Spring Bulbs

It's that time of year again and I'd like to encourage people who live on The Street to plant some bulbs on the verges along the road, it does look so welcoming and attractive in the springtime. **Nicky Rutherford**



## **The couple in the village who have been married the longest are.....**

DNL has been creating a list of couples in the village who have been married for more than 50 years and, via that, discover which couple has been married the longest. **That lucky couple win a meal for two at the Bluebell to a value of £50**, courtesy of the generosity of Robin and Lucy Catchpole. So, in ascending order, the couples who have sent in their information are (note that I have included some of the cryptic comments that have accompanied their emails!). Congratulations to the winner and to everyone in the village who has been married for 50 or more years!

**1 August, 1970:** Let's start off with a couple who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary early this year. Mared and Hugh Evans were married at St Paul's Church, Manordeilo, Carmarthenshire in the summer of 1970.

**2 August 1969:** *'Our wedding was on August 2nd 1969 at Sherborne Abbey in Dorset, a long time ago now!'* say Margaret and Tony Moore.

**30 March 1968.** And Peter Fox reports, *'Diana and I were married on a cold windy day on 30 March 1968, so just over 52 years ago. We were married at Eltham Parish Church, Eltham SE9. My dad had his own accountancy company hence the reason for getting married just before the end of the financial year as in those days you could claim a whole year's married persons allowance!'*

**March 1966:** That's 54 years for Jean and Peter Towner.

**9 November 1963:** Sandy and Norman Taylor who were married in Portsmouth Registry Office. *'Those were the days'*, they say, *'Art schools and the swinging 60s. Seems like yesterday.'*

**10 September 1960:** John Wilkins emails to say *'Celia and I were married at St Mary's, Ewell on 10 September 1960 – not even the Great Train Robbers got that long!'*

**17 March 1956:** Diana and Harold Parratt were married at St Mary's Frensham. Diana declares, *'I was a child bride! Where have those 64 years gone?'*

And a special mention to Jane Spurling, who lived with her husband Jeremy in Bealeswood Lane for over 40 years until they moved into Farnham a few years ago. Poignantly Jane emails to say, *'If Jeremy was still with me, I could say we were coming up to our 63rd wedding anniversary. Pity; might we have been the winners!'*

So, we can declare Diana and Harold Parratt the winners. Would they please get in touch with Lucy at the Bluebell to discuss their prize? Thank you again, Lucy and Robin, you are the kindest people.

## **Annabel and Stu**

A big thank you for all the good wishes to Annabel and Stu Wilkinson on their wedding in July. It was a very happy, sunny day in very strange times. With only 2 weeks' notice that churches were again allowed to hold weddings Annabel and Stu went ahead with a very short service in St Mary's. No singing was permitted, only 18 people were present and we all wore masks but Jane still made it special, as did Mike Smith with his magnificent organ music. It was so good to hear again after many weeks. It is at the moment the only wedding that has taken place in St Mary's this year. Thank you as well to all the lovely people who greeted the couple as they left the church. It gave such a wonderful atmosphere. We were very sad not to be permitted to invite people to celebrate with us at home in Dockenfield but if all goes well it may be allowed next year.

**Morag and Peter James**

## **Welcome to Dockenfield**

A big Dockenfield welcome to Jeremy Elkes and Hannah Harrison who moved into the Old Convent on 24 June, having previously lived in Alton. Jeremy's mother Jean has lived in Green Lane since January 1975 and has been a distributor of DNL since it's very first edition. Jean is really looking forward to having Jeremy and Hannah living in the village she loves so much.

## **DNL 279**

A number of Dockenfield residents have asked for a hard copy of DNL edition 279, the issue that was distributed entirely by email because of Coronavirus. So, I have printed just a few copies and are likely to have about 10 spare. If you never got to see this edition or would like a hard copy for your files please let me know as soon as possible. First come first served I am afraid. It's an odd size at 13 pages so the printed version will have a few blank pages at the end.

## **Windfalls wanted**

Orchard Farm Animal Sanctuary have a number of rescue pigs in various different shapes and sizes. They have one thing in common; a passion for apples! If you have any windfalls that are in need of a good home, they would be thrilled to receive them. Please leave at the gate (on Dockenfield Street between Alice Holt entrance and Batt's Corner). Many thanks. **Anne Tutt**

## **Frensham and Dockenfield History Group**

Frensham and Dockenfield History Group will continue to abstain from holding meetings until further notice. It is anticipated that the next possible meeting will be the AGM 2021 scheduled for the second Tuesday in February.

This will of course be reliant on any future Covid 19 restrictions. In the meantime, the Committee send all the members every good wish for their future health and happiness during these current difficult times.

**Chris Bonner**

## News from Frensham Village Shop

**Hello everyone,** as we head into Autumn and wait to see what else 2020 has in store for us all, we are very much open and look forward to seeing you in the shop soon. The adoption of social distancing customer limits and face coverings is working well so far. Our opening hours are back to “normal”, including being open until 7pm Weekdays. We continue to see great availability of key products like fresh fruit & veg, eggs, flour, milk and freshly baked bread, as well as everyday essentials through to some wonderfully indulgent treats!

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of people using the shop so far this year, which has continued throughout the summer. This has been fantastic to see and is something everyone involved with the shop is very proud of. As we head towards 25 years of operating as a Community Shop, we hope to continue to play an increased role in the lives of those living in Frensham, Dockenfield and the local area.

There will most likely be further changes in the weeks and months to come in how we operate but our core purpose of serving the local community, and of giving back to support the local community, will remain our focus. Whilst we all hope the pandemic passes and the restrictions on the country are eased as soon as is possible, we hope the renewed focus on local and supporting your community continues to grow and we are keen to be a part of it, along with all the business in Frensham and Dockenfield.

We are always looking for new volunteers and people to get involved with the shop, so please get in touch if this might be of interest – even an hour or two a week could make a big difference.

Keep an eye on our website for the latest information, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Please stay safe and support your local shop by shopping locally! We hope to see you soon.

**Callum Keaveny [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk) 01252 795240**

## Conkers and Grenades

A peculiar combination you might think, conkers and grenades, but it's a little known fact that during the First World War children were asked to collect conkers for the 'war effort'. They contain a substance which is one of the components of cordite and this was used to make explosives. Just a piece of useless information which I've picked up, you might think, but it is in fact the title of a book I've written that's aimed at children in the 10-12 age range.

I've started to read it on YouTube in episodes in the hope that it will make money for those people who are suffering financially because of the Corona virus. The book is set in Bristol in 1916 in the middle of the First World War. The story follows two boys, Mar and Appy who discover a spy ring and a plot to assassinate the King and Queen. They unwittingly get entangled in a web of secret agents, codes and danger. No-one is quite who they seem. It's an exciting book for children and adults like it too.

It's a shame that children have missed so much schooling this year but having stories read to them helps to increase vocabulary and sets a spark to their imaginations as they imagine the characters and what they get up to.

I've selected three charities which are especially effective in helping people who are in need financially. They are: The Salvation Army, Caring in Bristol and Quartet Community Foundation. To find the recordings, search for 'Conkers and Grenades' on YouTube. These are unusual times for us all but people who receive help from these charities are grateful for everything they get.

Hope to see you around.

**Hilary Lee-Corbin**

## Dockenfield Speed Watch

Jean, Karen, Barry, Michael and I have done a few sessions of Community Speed Watch recently. There are probably half the numbers of vehicles going through up to today, 1 September, which is nice! I expect it will all change soon but we are enjoying the relative quiet. We are still getting quite a number of people driving through at 40 mph though and bearing in mind the number of children in the village now, the cyclists, the dog walkers, the horses and elderly people walking along The Street, it is a bit worrying. We will keep going with the Speed Watch as it does alert people to the fact that it is a 30 mph limit here and they are speeding! We get a lot of 'thumbs up' signs from people as they pass, so I assume it means they support us!

**Nicky Rutherford**

## The lockdown defined

A friend defined the lockdown as follows. *'It used to be that my daughter and her boyfriend would spend hours arguing face to face. Now they do it over the phone.'*

## Take a seat Ladies and Gentlemen, please

DNL received an email from Tony Moore, which says:  
*'I have recently refurbished the two seats in Fritz's Field and in doing so it strikes me that very few people make use of them, certainly in the 14 or so years that we have been here I have not seen them used, which is a shame. Margaret and I have sometimes (when we had a dog) made use of them to sit and admire the view, which I think is rather beautiful.'*

*Do you think it a good idea to let people know via the Newsletter that Fritz's Field exists for us to make use of as a village amenity, there has been a considerable influx of new people living in our village who may not be aware of this and also the new amenity closer to you next to the Rec.'*

Then came an email from Paul Wood concurring that the view from those seats is really rather special:

*'Charlie Pament and I have been having a beer on the seats - conveniently they are 2m apart for social distancing! - watching the sun go down, on a Friday evening during the lockdown, all very lovely and the amount of wildlife you see around is amazing'*

So do make good use of these seats with a view. And, on that subject, have you noticed that there is a brand-new seat installed at the top of Bealeswood Common? Another lovely spot to drink in the view.

And that's not all. I am told that there are seats planned in the future on the new DPC owned land immediately adjacent to the Playing Field at Abbotts Cottages, and possibly in the field next to that as well (see page 15). So, plenty of spaces around the village to stop awhile and catch your breath. Or, in the words of the poet William Henry Davies, *'What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?'*

Last, but not least, a big thank you to Tony for renovating those two seats.

*If you're not sure where Fritz's Field is, see page 8.*

## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

The normal advertised events of the Horticultural Society are still cancelled, and all members of the Society will be contacted by Newsletter for details of all upcoming events.

This is a summary of events for the rest of this year:

- Autumn Show, 5 September: cancelled
- Social at Frensham Brewery, 24 September: cancelled
- **Compost Workshop**, 17 October- Will run and there are a few places left\*
- **AGM**, 22 October- to be held by Zoom. All members will be invited to join.
- Presidents Supper, 27 November: cancelled

(\* Contact Dan Bosence to reserve place 792442, or [dwbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbosence@btinternet.com) Open to non-members as well as members of Society. Held outside with compliant numbers and distancing)

**Dan Bosence**

## Men's Night.....

The next two Men's Night evenings are as always on the second Thursdays of the month, **8 October** and **12 November**, starting at 8pm at the Bluebell. Because we are still living in uncertain times do please look out for final confirmation from **Mark Rosling** along with arrangements that ensure government social distancing guidelines are adhered to. To be sure you hear from him, please check you are on the Men's Night mailing list:  
[markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com)

## .....and Ladies Night

There is still no fixed date for the next Ladies Night at the moment so again probably the best thing to do is to await news from **Nicola Hames** who will tell everyone via her email distribution list. To get on that reminder list just email [nicolabb@gmail.com](mailto:nicolabb@gmail.com)

## Millbridge WI

We had our August committee meeting in Frensham Rec where we considered our business from HQ and locally as rules change every day. To keep us all in touch during these unusual times, Millbridge W. I. decided to meet in groups of up to six in members' gardens, weather permitting, for a picnic tea.

We were so lucky; on Thursday it was beautifully sunny. Mary, Brenda and I met in Nancy's garden for a cream tea which was delicious. It was lovely to talk to someone different than those in our bubble. Another picnic took place in Margaret's garden and one in Rosemary's. More have taken place in Frensham. We're hoping that in September we'll be able to meet in bigger groups.

**Diana Parratt**

## Art and Soul

As part of the delayed Open Studios this year I have some work at the 'Art and Soul' exhibition: 19 September to 4 October in Haslemere at [www.theartfulgallery.co.uk](http://www.theartfulgallery.co.uk). A garden full of sculpture to see in the stunning private gardens of a Huf Haus. To visit see website information or call 07799 653093.

**Nicola Godden (sculptor)**

## Rainfall figures

The rainfall figures for June and July are:  
**June 2019** 108.6mm. **June 2020** 39.6mm  
**July 2019** 29.7mm. **July 2020** 47.7mm

**Jack Bessant**

## Did you know...

There are about seven chickens for every human being on the planet.

## Bealeswood Butterflies

July 8 - 14	73 x Meadow Brown, 3 x Ringlet, 1 x Marbled White, 10 x Gatekeeper, 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Holly Blue, 2 x Small Copper, 4 x Small White, 6 x Large White, 1 x Small Skipper, 1 x Essex Skipper, 18 x Small/ Essex Skipper
July 15 - 21	55 x meadow Brown, 20 x Small White, 3 x Large White, 18 x Gatekeeper, 3 x Peacock, 11 x Ringlet, 7 x Common Blue, 7 x Marbled White, 20 x Small/Essex Skipper, 1 x brimstone, 1 x Comma
July 22 – 28	33 x Meadow Brown, 21 x Gatekeeper, 7 x Common Blue, 1 x Holly Blue, 1 x Large White, 1 x Small White, 1 x Small Copper, 1 x Silver-washed Fritillary, 1 x Speckled Wood
July 29 – Aug 4	43 x Meadow Brown, 29 x Gatekeeper, 15 x Large White, 1 x Small White, 10 x Common Blue, 2 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Brimstone, 1 x peacock, 1 x Comma, 1 x Small skipper
August 5 - 11	20 x Meadow Brown, 6 x Gatekeeper, 10 x Common Blue, 2 x Small White, 1 x Large White, 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Small Copper, 1 x Small/Essex Skipper
August 12 - 18	1 x Large White, 1 x Common Blue, 2 x Speckled Wood
August 19 - 25	3 x Meadow Brown, 2 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Large White, 1 x Common Blue, 1 x Small Copper

**Alison Bosence, Philippa Hall, Anne Tutt**

## News from down the road at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

We have been so touched by all your donations and messages of support after our last update in the DNL. Thank you!

The latest news is that we are just about surviving in these Covid-affected times. We have taken the view that we will help as many people with dyslexia as possible with pro-bono support, if they are from lower income backgrounds. We'll just worry about the finances afterwards and hope that something will turn up.

And actually, something has turned up! The good people at The National Lottery Community Fund have noticed what we're doing in Frensham and have promised to make a donation of nearly £50,000 for us to help children and adults with dyslexia in this time of crisis. That's brilliant and means we can do our best to help the people who need it most. Children with dyslexia have really fallen behind during school closures and their parents have been at a loss as to what to do. Many of them are dyslexic themselves, as the condition is hereditary and affects 1 in 10 people. Dyslexic adults have been struggling too, working from home (or made redundant).

It never rains but it pours. Our latest challenge has been flash flooding, with water running straight off the fields and into our buildings. Our staff have been amazing – last night we were bailing out water (again!) until it got dark, then back again at 7am to tidy the place up as we had several dyslexic children due to visit. Hey ho!

What gives us strength is the thought that Helen would have been looking down on us with approval, keeping the charity going after she's gone. And probably smiling to herself. Helen would have celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. Such a shame she didn't get to receive her telegram from the Queen but at least she received a visit to her home from Princess Beatrice (our Patron) in her last months.

Since lockdown started to lift, we've already had 200 children and adults with dyslexia come down Arkell Lane for an initial assessment of their situation, as a first step in getting help for their dyslexia. People come to us from all over the UK.

We can only do this thanks to all the help and support you give us, so thank you so much!!

Our next challenge is to try to find a way to stay on the existing Frensham site when the lease expires next June. We are doing our best to find a solution, talking with Helen's family. We dearly want to stay in the Parish, so hopefully we can sort something out, which would ideally leave us with a home of our own down Arkell Lane, or at least bide us a bit more time. We'll keep you updated! In the meantime, if anyone knows of any alternative premises going spare in the parish, we'd love to hear from you, just in case.

If anyone wants more regular news, just subscribe via our website ([www.helenarkell.org.uk](http://www.helenarkell.org.uk)) or pop a note through the door.

**Andy Cook, Chief Executive of Helen Arkell and resident of Frensham**

## News from St Marys and the Good Shepherd

### Services

As you may know we returned to worship at St Mary's on 23 August where we had a socially distanced service of Holy Communion. We are continuing to hold services at St Mary's at 10.30am every Sunday. We are following Church of England guidelines for Covid. This means that 2m distancing is in place together with the wearing of masks and hand sanitizing. There is a one-way system. Sadly there is no singing for the congregation but we have recently been advised that up to two members of the choir can sing (they will be distanced from the congregation). We look forward to this in the coming weeks. The bell ringers have resumed ringing (albeit only three bells) but it is wonderful to hear them welcoming us to church. We are doing everything possible to keep everybody safe and hope that you will feel confident in joining us.

Here are the services for the coming months:

- 20 September Traditional morning prayer (BCP)
- 27 September Holy Communion
- 4 October Family Harvest Worship and Fellowship
- 11 October Harvest Holy Communion
- 18 October Traditional morning prayer (BCP)
- 25 October Holy Communion
- 1 November All Souls service (more details in the next edition)
- 8 November Remembrance Sunday (more details in the next edition and see page 4)

We are now live streaming the service at 10.30am every Sunday on YouTube. If you are attending the service please do not worry about filming – the camera is placed so that nobody (other than those who are part of the service) can be identified. If you miss the live stream, then you will be able to view it after the service has finished later in the day. There is a delay in us physically getting the recording to YouTube, but it will be there eventually! Please visit our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKSbQT7FJs4vZdtPEM9pM0A>

The Good Shepherd will remain closed due to the blown air heating system. However, we are thinking of ways to overcome this problem and hope to be able to offer a simple BCP service at 8am in the coming months. Before we commit to going ahead with this, we need to know the number of people who may be interested in attending. To this end, if you think that you would like to attend, then please let me know by email or phone (790690) as soon as possible. We have provisionally pencilled in Sunday 15 November as a date for a 'trial' service subject to demand.

### Harvest

We will be holding two harvest services as usual this year at St Mary's on 4 October and 11 October. The service on 4 October will be particularly suitable for families – although everyone is most welcome! Please bring your offerings to the services but because of Covid we are asking for tinned and non-perishable packet items only. We shall keep your offerings safely for 72 hours before any distribution takes place. As well as distributing your offerings to the most vulnerable in our own community, we are intending to distribute to The Vine Centre and Farnham Foodbank. If you are unable to attend either of the services but would like to donate, please leave your offerings in the box provided in St Mary's. Thank you for helping to support so many people in these difficult times.

### Sad news

It is with great sadness that I bring the news that Peter Newman passed away on Friday 21 August peacefully at home. Peter was a remarkable person who served on our PCC and as our Deanery Synod representative for many years. He brought much faith, wisdom and joy to our PCC and community and will be very sadly missed. We send our prayers and condolences to Lynda and the family and to all his many friends.

### Mini meadows

We are so delighted with the mini meadows at The Good Shepherd. They have been a great success and it has been quite remarkable just how many different varieties of wild flowers and grasses have popped up after being left to their own devices. The time has come for us to cut it all back and this will be happening in the coming weeks. The grass will be cut/stripped and gathered up to compost. The plan is then to continue the mowed paths and to see what else happens to come up over the autumn/winter. Our thanks to Dan Bosence for all his help and advice and to Ruth Murphy for her design.

Talking of gardening, we will be cutting back the hedges in the coming weeks and just wanted to give a little notice that we intend to have our annual **bonfire** to dispose of the trimmings. We will ensure that this happens on a weekday, keeping the weekends free from smoke. Apologies in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

**Cont/**

## **Cont/**

### **Garden opening**

We are very grateful indeed to Ann Fisk for kindly opening her historic garden in Frensham on Thursdays since the beginning of July to help raise funds for the church. During that time there have been nearly 40 visitors with some generous donations. As the weather has now changed it was decided to make 10 September the last day of opening. We do hope that everyone that came enjoyed their visit.

### **For sale**

We have the following items for sale. (They have been sitting in the attic of St Mary's hall since the build. We have tried to repatriate with the builders to no avail).

1 x IM250 Paslode Nail gun (2<sup>nd</sup> fix) with 2 batteries and 1 charger

1 x IM350 Paslode Nail gun (1<sup>st</sup> fix) no batteries or charger but they are interchangeable with those for the IM250

These are professional tools, in full working order. Please contact me on 790690 if you are interested. A donation to church funds would be welcome.

Enjoy what is left of the summer and I hope to see you soon.

With love and blessings.

**Eunice King (Churchwarden)**

## **A personal tribute to Richard Potter ....**

*Ordinarily tributes in DNL are restricted to residents of the village, for obvious reasons. Richard Potter however was man whose life transcended both Frensham and Dockenfield and so I asked Eunice King to write a tribute to the lovely man who talent and love touched so many of us.*

Richard peacefully passed away on 1 September surrounded by Barbara and his family. They had just returned from a wonderful holiday in Cornwall. But sadly Richard became poorly at the end of the holiday and was admitted to Truro hospital, later to be transferred to the Marsden who had been helping him with his fight with lung cancer and then leukaemia. I say fight because this really summed him up. He overcame a stroke in February 2018, which in turn threw light on his lung cancer, which he fought. Then came the leukaemia which he was fighting so bravely, and more recently along came Covid 19 which he miraculously conquered. After Covid he messaged me to say "*I'm still here; you can't get rid of me that easily!*"

Richard was a remarkable man. An eminent scientist (physicist) with an outstanding career. When I came alongside him in April 2015 to be a churchwarden, he held my hand and made the whole experience such fun. Along with Barbara and Karen as deputies, we were a great team together. Although it was hard work and a big learning curve Richard always made it fun.

He had been a member of the PCC for more years than he cared to remember! He was project manager for the build of St Mary's church hall, which was completed on deadline and on budget - a fantastic achievement. A lasting legacy for us all to admire that enhances and contributes to our church worship and community activities and also is a wonderful village resource.

Richard was a family man. He loved being surrounded by his children and grandchildren who all adored him. He and Barbara were even surfing with them just before he became poorly! Such lovely memories for them all.

Besides his family, the love of Richard's life was music. And we were privileged for him to be our choirmaster across the decades. From organising the weekly choir practice and services, he organised many concerts raising money for charities and the church. Everything was done meticulously and this is why we have the exceptional choir that we have today. Richard never did anything by halves - he was quite a hard task master!

Indeed, another of his great achievements was to help raise enough money to rebuild Singarche school in Nepal following the earthquake in 2015 that devastated the region. He trekked through the mountains to visit the school and I remember him being so very humbled by the experience. It was an experience that shook him to the core.

I suspect that Richard's deep faith was what has helped him through these difficult few years. He taught me a lot and I was lucky enough to be alongside him on a Mindfulness retreat to Scotland just before he had his stroke. We walked for miles and stood in wonder on the hills of the Isle of Cwmbræ to marvel at God's wonderful creation. He even carried my handbag through the streets of the local town as we had availed ourselves of some red wine to help our mindful focus! Such a gentle man.

I shall miss my friend and mentor enormously. I would like to leave you with my six words for Richard (an exercise we did at our Forum group a while ago to explain our faith): Family - Strong - Sensitive - Caring - Music - Love

Rest in Peace dear Richard.

**Eunice King, Churchwarden, The Benefice of Frensham**





### **‘Art in a Red Box’**

#### **The Red Cube Art Space, next to St Mary’s School, Frensham**

‘The Red Cube Community Art Space’ has found an unusual home in an old Red Telephone Box. Brought back to life in 2017 with the aid of a National Lottery grant. It has provided a new venue, for local artists and makers to exhibit their work.

The latest piece of work by local artist Jane Browne, it is titled “Lockdown Tree”. She has produced a topical art work. She draws her inspiration from the National Experiences of Lockdown. Jane has used mixed media of wool, watercolour, and cut out newspaper headlines. Next to the Red Cube Art Space, there is a comprehensive description of how Jane has approached her current work.

Artists involved with the Red Cube Art Space sometimes run workshops with St Mary’s School providing opportunities for the children to become involved. Jane Browne’s work will be on view until the end of September. It is an interesting and immediately relevant piece. **Sandy Taylor**

### **The rules of cricket**

*I thought that this might be useful background for those reading the Dockenfield v Frensham match report, (see page 2). This explanation was kindly sent in by Pam Powell, an enthusiastic DNL reader from the Bourne. This may be especially instructive for DNL’s American readers!*

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that’s in the side that’s in goes out, and when he’s out he comes in and the next man goes in until he’s out.

When they are all out, the side that’s out comes in and the side that’s been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in.

There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out.

When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

### **Will you walk the walkways?**

Some of you will be aware that the tractor I kept in the shed in the field to the east of Abbots Cottages has been stolen and the shed has been wrecked. As a result I will, for the time being, have no ready means of keeping the walkways in the field mown.

In an earlier DNL I reported that it was my intention to create and maintain walkways in the field for the use of village residents, which I have been doing. Now I would like to ask for your help, by walking the walkways.

In particular there is a 220-yard square around the big oak-tree, with curved corners, and a similar 220-yard square to the east of that, making a nice quarter-mile walk in a figure of 8 (or a mile if you go round 4 times). From the south-west corner of the figure of 8, close to the oak-tree, the walkway follows the line of the fence bounding the Parish Council’s part of the field to the pedestrian gate where it joins up with two separate links to the walkway alongside the woodland leading on to public footpath 45A at the far south-west corner of the field. Please use these walkways and help me to keep them open.

If enough people use the figure of 8 it is my intention to install a bench by the oak-tree, so that grandparents can watch the grandchildren walk the walk, or vice-versa. **David Harmer**

### **Let’s hear it for the Herald**

I just want to say congratulations to the Farnham Herald who have kept publishing during this crisis. It can’t have been remotely easy for them with lack of advertisers, sales outlets shut and readers locked in at home. But they have carried on publishing through thick and thin, just when the community needs them most. So do please try and buy your weekly copy, ideally from the Village Shop. I originally wrote this piece for inclusion in the July DNL, but had to pull it to find space for a late and urgent item. But my admiration for them remains undimmed and indeed since then the Herald has been named ‘Weekly Newspaper of the Year’ in the Regional Press Awards, run by the Society of Editors. Well done every one who helps bring the paper out every week.

## Help get Dockenfield into the AONB

Dockenfield and part of Frensham lie on the edge of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a national designation commanding the highest degree of protection under planning rules after the National Parks. Why they were excluded when the boundaries were set is unknown. Later on, Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) were designated around the edges of the AONB and Dockenfield and those parts of Frensham were included in the designated area. For some time the Parish Councils have tried to get the AGLV upgraded to AONB status and over 12 years ago, the Surrey Hills AONB Board asked Natural England (NE) to do this.

Two landscape surveys were undertaken of the whole of the AGLV and the Dockenfield and Frensham areas were recommended for inclusion in the AONB because of the natural beauty of the landscape. Natural England has repeatedly given assurances since 2013 that the Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review would be carried out once the Suffolk Coast AONB Boundary Review had been completed, which has just happened. We had therefore expected the boundary review would be starting now and we have been seeking confirmation of this from NE, but we understand that NE are awaiting a decision by DEFRA that the review can go ahead. The PCs are seeking the help of Jeremy Hunt. A CPRE volunteer has started a petition urging NE to get on with it. See

[https://www.change.org/p/natural-england-protect-the-beauty-of-the-surrey-countryside-before-its-gone-forever?utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=cus\\_tom\\_url&recruited\\_by\\_id=4fcd4900-fad1-11e4-ba01-77572a31bcb4](https://www.change.org/p/natural-england-protect-the-beauty-of-the-surrey-countryside-before-its-gone-forever?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=cus_tom_url&recruited_by_id=4fcd4900-fad1-11e4-ba01-77572a31bcb4)

**Colin Hall**

*If you are interested in signing this petition but find the link too cumbersome to type into your computer, just email me (michael.foster66@btinternet.com) and I will send you the link*

## What did you find in the back of your larder?

Just about everyone I know has taken the opportunity of lockdown to have a big clear out, not least of all of their larders, and we are no exception. Hiding at the back, we found a jar of 'Merry Christmas Preserve'. The 'best before' date? 12 October 2005. And you know, it was delicious. Will anyone own up to finding anything older?



**Coppiced beech in the woods adjacent to High Thicket Road. Photograph by Ronnie Bennett**

## It seems you enjoyed DNL's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday

DNL celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special edition, issue number 280. You will have seen from the picture on the cover that Rafferty Allingham became an instant fan, refusing to relinquish his copy to anyone. And I am happy to report that Rafferty wasn't alone in his enthusiasm.

A good many readers were kind enough to get in touch and these extracts are just a few of the many comments DNL received.

*'Wow, 20 pages long and so much to read, well done'*

*'An excellent 40<sup>th</sup> birthday edition. I will have to do it justice after a good nights sleep!'*

*'What a fantastic publication. It really makes me want to live in Dockenfield'*

*'I have just spent a very pleasant hour reading DNL'*

*'I really enjoy reading the DNL'*

*'Thanks for the Newsletter, congrats on 40th birthday'*

*'Brilliant Newsletter once more'*

*'Many congratulations on DNL's 40th birthday; as good a read as ever'*

*'Keep up the excellent work'*

*'DNL is informative and utterly charming, and wonderfully uniting for this community.'*

Thank you, one and all, for taking the time to write it's much appreciated.

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